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picric acid; then leave in moist chamber for a few hours (hæmatoxylin), or one or more days (alum carmine).

(6) Wash with distilled water, proceeding as in No. 4.

(7) Dehydrate with absolute alcohol, taking care not to disturb the cover, and then add a border of clove oil. The alcohol soon evaporates and is replaced with the clarifying medium. The preparation is now ready for examination. If the preparation is to be preserved permanently the clove oil should be replaced by xylol, and then a thin solution of balsam in xylol allowed to flow under the cover as the xylol evaporates. As a good preparation is often spoiled in the process of mounting, it is well to make the examination in clove oil first.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— Dr. C. V. Riley, entomologist of the Department of Agriculture and honorary curator of insects in the National Museum, has presented to the National Museum his extensive private collection of North American insects, representing the fruits of his labors in collecting and study for over twenty-five years. His collection contains over 20,000 species, represented by over 115,000 pinned specimens, and much additional material preserved in alcohol or other methods. It is estimated by those familiar with the collection to have a money value of at least $25,000. In addition to the actual cost of material it is hard to estimate the amount of time and labor that such a collection represents. In acknowledging the donation, Professor Baird expresses the warmest appreciation for this most generous gift, and his assurance that both now and in the future it will afford a valuable means of study for the entomologists of this country. This collection is especially rich in Coleoptera and Lepidoptera, and the latter contains many rare larvæ, blown and in alcohol. As it stands, by this gift the entomological collections of the National Museum become next in importance to those at Cambridge.

— The anniversary meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society was held in January, when the president (Dr. Dallinger, F.R.S.) delivered an address dealing with the results he had obtained during the last four years principally in the employment of the greatly improved microscope object-glasses made on the homogeneous-immersion principle. The special research which Dr. Dallinger has been engaged upon, and to which his address was devoted, is the elucidation of the origin, development, division and ultimate function of the nucleus, as found in what may be assumed to be its simplest condition in the more striking of the septic organisms, and his microscopical observations have been chiefly made on the living organism. The object-glasses employed by Dr. Dallinger are high powers of most recent construction, in which the apertures have been carried to the highest point hitherto attained, and were made expressly for his investigations by Messrs. Powell and Lealand.

— The first number of the Bulletin of the Scientific Laboratories of Denison University, at Granville, Ohio, edited by Professor C. L. Herrick, contains the following articles :

Osteology of the evening grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina* Bonap.), with Plate I and frontispiece, by the editor.
Metamorphosis of phyllopod Crustacea, with Plates V–VIII and Plate X, by the editor.
Superposed buds, with Plate XII, by Aug. F. Foerste, class of '87.
Limicole, or mud-living Crustacea, with Plate IX, by the editor.
Rotifers of America, Part I, with descriptions of a new genus and several new species, with Plates II–IV and Plate X, by the editor.
The Clinton group of Ohio, with descriptions of new species, with Plates XIII and XIV, by Aug. F. Foerste.
A compend of laboratory manipulation, Chapter I, Lithological manipulation, accompanied by a condensed translation of Eugene Hussak's Tables for the determination of rock-forming minerals, by the editor.

The whole forms a volume of 180 pages, with fifteen plates, and affords good evidence of the scientific zeal and energy of the scientific corps of this institution.

— At a recent meeting of the Royal Society, Dr. Downes read a paper on the action of sunlight on micro-organisms, in which he called attention to the fact that the observations made by himself and Mr. T. Blunt, described in papers contributed to the society during 1877–79, had been corroborated by other investigators. Dr. Downes now asserts that the hyperoxidation of protoplasm by sunlight is a general law, from the action of which living organisms are shielded by protective developments of cell wall, coloring matter, &c. In previous communications Dr. Downes had shown that sunlight was fatal to saprophytes, and that in the presence of free oxygen the molecule of oxalic acid might, under the influence of light, be entirely resolved into water and carbonic acid. The alterative ferment of cane sugar, a representative of the diastases, is also oxidized by sunlight.—*English Mechanic.*

— *A question.*—I should be very much obliged to anybody for some information on the following points, regarding Menopoma, Amphiuma, Necturus and Siren:

1. Where are these batrachians common?
2. Has anybody ever seen the eggs and larvæ (embryos) of these forms, and in what season?—*Dr. G. Baur, Yale College Museum, New Haven, Conn.*

— Mr. Mellard Reade's presidential address to the Liverpool Geological Society has been printed in separate form, and will interest geologists. He discusses the way in which the enormous amount of mineral matter poured into the Atlantic is distributed. He concludes that deposits thousands of feet in thickness are being laid down about the mouths of great rivers, forming extensions of the true deltas, and, therefore, what appears to be a submarine prolongation of the margin of a continent may, in many cases, be merely a sedimentary deposit washed down from the interior.

— Dr. Alfredo Dugés writes from Guanajuato, Mexico, that on the 5th of February there fell at that place eight inches of snow. It made a fine appearance, covering the trees full of leaves, and stupefied the inhabitants, most of whom had never seen such a phenomenon. The thermometer fell to 4° and 5° C.

— Jan. 17, died in Strassburg, Professor E. Oscar Schmidt, who was distinguished for his researches on turbellarian worms and sponges, as well as several valuable general works.

— W. T. Thiselton Dyer has succeeded Sir Joseph Hooker as director of Kew gardens.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Biological Society of Washington, Feb. 20.—Mr. Romyn Hitchcock, Demonstration of the resolving power of a new 1–16 inch objective; Dr. D. E. Salmon and Dr. Th. Smith, On a new method of producing immunity from contagious diseases; Dr. C. V. Riley, A carnivorous butterfly larva; Mr. Lester F. Ward, The plane tree and its ancestors; Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Contributions to North American mammalogy. II. Description of a new species of Aplodontia; Dr. George Vasey, New and recent species of North American grasses.

New York Academy of Sciences.—I. A new electric winding apparatus for clocks (illustrated); II. On the need of a normal time-system for observatories, Professor John K. Rees.

March 1.—Mrs. Alice D. Le Plongeon read an address on Yucatan, its ancient temples and palaces. The paper was illustrated with numerous lantern photographs, taken by Dr. and Madame Le Plongeon, during twelve years of study and exploration among the remarkable monuments and scenery of Yucatan.

Boston Society of Natural History, Feb. 17.—Dr. W. G. Farlow spoke of the collection of lichens recently presented to the society by Charles J. Sprague, Esq.,; and Mr. S. H. Scudder discussed the best methods for arranging and classifying the libraries of natural history institutions.

March 3.—Dr. Thomas Dwight read a paper on the significance of the internal structure of bone, illustrated by the stereopticon.

Appalachian Mountain Club, Feb. 10.—An ascent of the Matterhorn, by Melancthon M. Hurd; The Carter-Moriah path and camp, by W. G. Nowell; An exploration of the Pilot range, by W. H. Peck.

Feb. 17.—Major Jed. Hotchkiss addressed the club on Mount Rogers, the highest point of the Appalachians in Virginia.